Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Industry Portfolio Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2014-15

23 October 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation

TOPIC: Funding for Ebola Research

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 23 October 2014, page 36)

QUESTION No.: SI-20

CHAIR: Any dedicated funding on Ebola?

Dr Clark: Yes, we have dedicated researchers working on Ebola.

CHAIR: And funding?

Dr Clark: Yes, we have dedicated—

Senator KIM CARR: How much is that on Ebola?

Dr Clark: I can provide that on notice. We have both our dedicated funding and external funding.

Senator KIM CARR: How many people do you have working in the Ebola team?

Dr Clark: In terms of emerging infectious diseases and diseases that come from animals, and diseases that are similar to Ebola, I am happy to provide all of the people that we have working on that on notice.

ANSWER

CSIRO's most recent work on Ebola commenced in early 2014, following the awarding of a Julius Award to CSIRO researcher Dr Glenn Marsh. Dr Marsh is a senior virologist based at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) in Geelong who has elected to use this award to focus on Ebola. The award is valued at \$50,000 a year for three years.

Dr Marsh's work is supplemented by a team of five scientific researchers (virologists, immunologists and a veterinary pathologist) and six technical staff working on emerging pathogens including the Hendra and Nipah viruses, with capability to also work on Ebola.